

4. A NOTE ON THE LONGEVITY OF TWO SPECIES OF INDIAN OTTERS IN CAPTIVITY

An adult female Common Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and one adult male Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) were received at the Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa on 6. iii. 1965 and were exhibited together in a somewhat circular enclosure having a floor space of approximately 71 square metres. Half of this enclosure is occupied by a 60 cm deep water pool. Each Otter was fed with one kilogram of fresh water fish daily but once a week on Mondays only 500 grams of fish was fed.

The female Common Otter (*Lutra lutra*) died accidentally on 5-x-1979 after remaining for 14 years and 7 months in captivity. The estimated age at the time of death was about 17 years.

VETERINARY ASST. SURGEON,
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
P. O. BARANG, DIST. CUTTACK,
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The male Smooth Indian Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) died on 18-ii-1982 after remaining for 17 years 9 months and 13 days in captivity. The estimated age at the time of death was about 20 years.

River Otters (*Lutra* sp.) have lived for 19 years in captivity (Walker *et al.* 1964). The greatest longevity of the Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*) recorded in the Zoological Gardens of Basel was 11 years, 2 months and 23 days (Flower 1931). A specimen of *Lutra vulgaris* (= *lutra*) was still living on January 12, 1943 in the Trivandrum Zoological Gardens, after 22 years in the collection (Simon 1943). The longevity of Smooth Indian Otter has not been given by Crandall (1965).

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